

## Thin Skin Saved Him.

If His Hands Had Not Been Supersensitive Moses Would Have Died.

Doctors Could Not Communicate with Him Until They Wrote on His Palms.

His Replies Are Written by Him Upon a Slate with Astonishing Rapidity.

HE IS BOTH HAPPY AND CHEERFUL.

Hopes to Have His Sight Restored—Not Anxious to Die, and Thinks Much Pleasure Is in Store for Him.

A man over on Blackwell's Island would have died if the palms of his hands had not been supersensitive. Hugo's story of the paralytic who could only communicate with the world by nodding his head when his friends reached the word

is his father, who calls on him at long intervals.

Dr. Vincent Gomez, visiting ophthalmologist of the Almshouse and Workhouse hospitals, made the discovery that Moses could read all letters written on the palms of his hands.

The fact that there was something the matter with his eyes placed him under Dr. Gomez's authority, and the doctor at once proceeded to investigate the case. He found that Moses had a cataract in each eye, and has decided to perform an operation, which will consist of needling the lens of each eye, and may restore to Moses one of his lost senses.

The writer visited the Almshouse Hospital recently and conversed with Moses entirely through the medium of a lead pencil, but writing with the pencil on the man's outstretched palm, the mute writing his replies on a little slate he always carries.

Every sentence was written quickly and continuously, one word over another. In answer to questions, he told the story of his life. He had been a vestmaker, and subsequently a harness maker, he said, pursuing the latter calling even after he lost his sight. When asked if he could see anything at all, he answered that he could distinguish light and fire, but nothing else.

Asked how the characters written presented themselves to his mind, he replied: "I can see them. I see a mental picture of the letters as they are written."

"I think I have a conception of music," he said in answer to a question. "Sometimes I hear in my brain what I take to be music. I think it is music, because they tell me music is a pleasant thing to hear."

ter any kind of a sound, although the nurse said his vocal organs were in a healthy and well developed condition. He always carries his head tilted to the right, but the physicians think that habit is merely an accidental peculiarity, having no real pathological significance.

Moses has an extraordinary appetite. Though of light build, he eats much more than the average six-footer. He likes everything that is good to eat or drink, but is particularly fond of coffee.

When sleeping his legs are doubled up in the queerest possible manner, his arms twisted about his body and his head is buried face-downward in the pillow.

When asked what he would most like to see, he said: "The friends who have been kind to me, and my native land."

"If speech were given you at this moment, what would be the first thing you would say?"

"Ach, du lieber Gott!"

Moses is an inveterate domino player, and when asked how he managed to play the game, said: "I know each piece by feeling the holes in them. It is a very nice game. I generally win at it. But it is not so good as pinchies. I used to play pinchies a great deal—when I had my eyes. Now I can only play dominoes."

This sorry afflicted man in some respects marvellous man is very religious, though there is a dash of German philosophy in his piety. He knows something of Kant and Schopenhauer, and is not ignorant of Darwin. His favorite poet is Helme.

He says he once took great interest in municipal politics. So long as he was merely deaf and dumb he was able to hold his own in ward statercraft. It was not until he lost his sight that he found himself useless to his party. Tobacco is a great solace to him. He says he can think better when he has his pipe in his mouth.

A favorite pastime is letter writing. He sends two or three notes to his nurse every day. His little slate is more precious to him than anything else he possesses. Here is one of his letters to his nurse:

"My dear friend, Mr. —. Has it ever occurred to you that there is a great deal of pleasure to be derived from even the humblest conditions of life? I think everybody can be happy if he wishes to be. Here I am, shut up in the dark, but I enjoy myself very much and thank God that he lets me live. I do not think I should want to die, even if I were to lose my wonderful sense of touch. You might cut me off altogether from my fellow-men, yet there would always be my Maker for me to talk to. He will not forsake me, I am told, even though all my friends forget me. I am glad to know that, and I trust I shall always be able to keep myself fit to talk to God.

"I don't suppose you realize how lonely

## Evils of Cigarettes.

Dr. Shradly Discusses Their Effect Upon Those Who Smoke the Paper Rolls.

They Attack the Physical System Through Brain, Heart, Stomach and Lungs.

Harden the Membranes, Ruin Digestion and Shatter the Nervous System.

IMPAIR BOTH MIND AND BODY.

To Boys and Young Men They Are Positive Guarantees of Ill-Health and Stunted Mental and Physical Growth.

The fact that three persons, two of whom are women, have recently been placed in insane asylums, sufferers from acute mania superinduced by excessive indulgence in cigarettes, has revived an interest in the evil results attendant upon the use of tobacco in this form. The question people are desirous of having answered is, What, robbed of medical technicalities, is the exact equal of cigarette smoking upon the human system?

There is, perhaps, no better, if as good, authority upon this subject as Dr. George F. Shradly, whose judgment regarding the effect of narcotics is regarded as absolute.

"To smoke a cigarette," said Dr. Shradly, "is to use tobacco in its very worst form. It will produce physical irritability and mental and moral strabismus. It attacks the physical organization at four points—the stomach, the brain, the heart and the lungs. It deadens the sensibility of the membranes with which the smoke comes in contact, destroys the appetite, and causes the sufferer to endure all the attendant evils which attach themselves to the results of overstimulation.

"To the young man, to the boy, these statements are particularly applicable. As a matter of fact, a boy should never be permitted to use tobacco. Indulgence in the weed should be prohibited until the boy has reached mature development—un-

point, notice how deeply impregnated with nicotine are the first and second fingers of the hands of boys who are cigarette smokers. You will observe that they are a chronic yellow, sometimes deepened to almost a light shade of black. Just as those fingers look, so would the surface of the membranes of the youthful cigarette smoker's lungs appear could we see them.

"Nature resents by cough and spasm at first, but after awhile the more sensitive parts of the human mechanism with which the cigarette smoke comes in contact grow benumbed, and the deleterious smoke is breathed with as much apparent impunity as is common air. In this way the cigarette has a most rapid effect for evil upon the local and general systems on the partially mature youth.

"Take the students of Yale, Amherst, or any of the colleges which we all know. A boy may belong to the athletic organization, may be of excellent physique—still there is a lack that denotes imperfect health. Investigation nine times out of ten will reveal the fact that the boy is a confirmed cigarette smoker. This is what prevents the proper growth of the body, the development which nature intends the youth should gain as his years increase to the point of absolute maturity. So I say, and with all earnestness, that cigarette smoking is as sure to injure a young man as the sun is to rise in the East to-morrow.

"The use of cigarettes first affects the young man's nerves, and by the disorganization of the nervous system tends toward utter physical demoralization. Often you hear a student say that he can study with greater ease while smoking. Not at all. While the adult may find the use of tobacco an aid to the clearness of mind and concentration of thought, the effect upon the youth is exactly the contrary. It is only when the nervous system is, by the development of thought, tuned to its environment that the use of tobacco has a pleasing effect upon the brain. With the youth, smoking cigarettes, instead of producing clear-headedness, results in rendering the mental faculties dull and inactive—throws them into a state of torpor; and in the end will rob the boy of the mental clearness which otherwise might have been his. It will render a naturally retentive memory deficient, will make a dullard of the boy to whom nature originally gave clear thought and incisive intellect. In other words, the young man who smokes cigarettes is the self-destroyer in marked degree of his own mentality.

"Upon the stomach the effect of cigarette smoke is equally marked. There is an unnatural tendency to nausea. The appetite is stifled—never normal. Like the membranes of the throat and lungs, the stomach becomes hardened to the influx of nicotine and at the same time supersensitive in such a degree as to frequently superinduce nausea. In other words, it grows hardened to its daily dose of poison, and resents the introduction of substances which would ordinarily be productive of no evil effect. What plainer evidence is there that cigarette smoking undoes the boy for the struggle of life? It wrecks his digestion and makes him a dyspeptic when he should possess the digestion of almost ostrich-like power. It thus strikes at the very seat of the physical organization.

"Coming back to the subject of the student, I am supported by the result of special investigations in the statement that the tremendous increase in the number of college boys who find it necessary to wear spectacles to aid their sight, is caused by indulgence in cigarettes. The effect of the habit upon the eyesight is unquestionable. It is as deleterious and destroying in this respect as in others. So it can be said in a great proportion of cases that the boy who smokes cigarettes is paying the price for impaired eyesight. The habit interferes with the student's vision just as it does with his growth.

"Upon the heart, the effect of cigarette smoking is very apparent. The victim of the habit, with some or later, finds himself suffering from pains about the heart, as well as pronounced palpitation of that organ. To what extent this will increase depends in great measure upon the natural strength of the individual.

"As I said, the cigarette is the worst form in which tobacco can be used by any one. The cigar is second, the pipe third. The smoking of a pipe is least injurious, because the smoker does not feel, as in the case of a cigar, that he is morally bound to finish it. One dislikes to surrender a cigar until it is consumed, but if the pipe is smoked to a great extent, the cigarette evil—the constant consumption of tobacco in its deleterious form, for the boy who smokes cigarettes generally smokes them at every opportunity. Cigarette smoke is far more injurious to the air passages than the smoke from a cigar, for the reason that the more rapid the article smoked burns the greater the heat generated, and the greater the facility for the volatilization of poisonous gases. The cigarette, loosely packed as it is, carries the nicotine poison into the lungs with far greater rapidity than can be done by any other means.

"The paper in which the cigarette is rolled is not as injurious as it used to be, for the present method of manufacturing this rice paper, as it is called, is such as to reduce it to the minimum of harm, so that the smoke from a cigarette is not so deleterious as it once was. The cigarette, however, packed as it is, carries the nicotine poison into the lungs with far greater rapidity than can be done by any other means.

"To sum it all up, the smoking of tobacco in the medium of cigarettes leaves in the system certain principles common to all vegetable substances, such as starch, sugar, organic acids, etc.—and to that peculiar alkaloid to which the plant owes its special qualities—nicotine. Among the volatile principles that pass into the smoke with the nicotine are hydrazine and carbonic oxide. Of these a notable amount is absorbed by rapid smokers swallowing the smoke, and an alarming quantity by the young man who smokes cigarettes. In this way the gas passes into the circulation.

"These facts go far to explain the accidents that sometimes occur after hours passed in a medium saturated with tobacco smoke, even to those who do not use the weed. Cigarette smoking by boys and young men is one of the evils of the century. The friend and ally of disease and death. It is a habit encouraged by example and force of circumstances. It would be a step forward in the progress of the world if means could be found to successfully combat it among the youth of the country with to be considering as involving against the use of tobacco by adults. My remarks are directed against cigarette smoking as it exists among boys

## Invalids Rent Brains.

A New Calling Invented by Ailing New Yorkers of Wealth.

Profitable Employment Found for a Large Number of Intelligent People.

Bright Persons Hired to Play with the Sick the Games They Like.

IS PROFITABLE, ALTHOUGH TIRESOME

A Small Army of Young Men and Women Add Materially to Their Incomes in This Manner—Instances in Point.

New York's rich invalids have adopted the plan of hiring people to play chess, cribbage, checkers and all sorts of games with them. This arrangement is a two-fold benefit, for it employs a small army of people and enables the invalids to avoid imposing upon their friends.

There are in New York several hundred young men and women of brains, but with poorly filled pocketbooks, who earn a livelihood by amusing wealthy persons in various ways. Their employers are invalids and their constant plaint is ennui. They are ready to pay a fortune to the man who will amuse them. And there are people who have talent for amusing others. There are the ones who are now reaping a harvest, while enjoying themselves, also, after a fashion.

There is in New York now a young woman of Southern birth who was left an orphan when she was two weeks old. She has made her living "by her wits," as it were, ever since reaching a sufficiently mature age. This winter, in fact, this modestly named girl has been a fashionable dinner companion. When she was invited to this establishment nothing was said about her being a "game player," but she knew and her hostess knew that she was expected to make herself generally agreeable.

The first day at the country house she discovered the particular reason why she had been invited. There was an elderly man, very rich and a semi-invalid, whose insatiable craze was story-telling. He liked to tell stories himself and he liked to listen to them. "Try to like his stories. We are so mortally tired of them," whispered the hostess to her young guest within five minutes after they had entered the drawing-room. For two mortal weeks that girl has listened to her tales, how ever repulsive, will not lose their appeal. Her own little stories are told many times a day, with variations, but the dear old invalid is so busy with his own pains and his own stories that he does not hear a word she says. But he knows she is chattering, and that is enough for him. This is one example of professional entertaining.

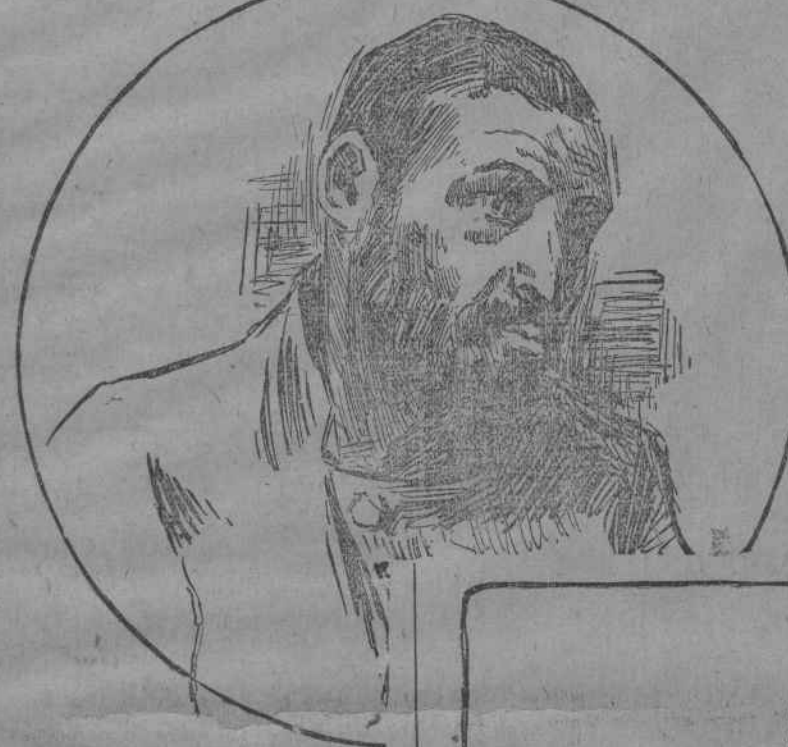
The hardest worked of the professional entertainers are the card players. These long suffering people must play a good game of cards—but not too good. They must take over the card tables—not too much. They must entertain the player as he plays—but not distract; and they must never, never get tired.

There is a young man who is standing for the bar whose money is earned by card playing. His opponent is a lawyer about fifty years old who is suffering from a sprained ankle. Before that the young lawyer had played cards with the invalid's father, and as soon as the accident happened a messenger was dispatched for him to come and "bring a deck of cards." Every house has its pack of cards. But the young lawyer knew what was meant. This particular deck of cards and been handled, and some of the cards were marked with red ink. One had a drop of wine upon it. Everybody knew it, but that detracted nothing from the interest of the game. It added to it. The excitement of peering into the back of your opponent's hand, and looking in the shifting light for that wine spot added a positive interest to the gambler's game.

The young lawyer knew it, and to make it more so he dropped wine upon the back of three cards. That made the game so exciting that the sprained ankle was forgotten and nothing was remembered until it was time to pull out the roll of bills and pay the lawyer a little for his loss of time. That little keeps him studying law and renders unnecessary more arduous labor.

Valuable invalids move heaven and earth to be amused. There is a woman who has a thousand ill a minute. Nothing but threatening to set fire to her couch gets her out of bed morning. This woman pays a girl a very nice sum to be her "companion" mornings. But all the girl does is sit by her bedside and chatter. Sometimes she knits and makes the invalid hold her yarn. Several times, when the hypochondriac pains were unusually depressing, she has tied knots in the worsted, and the invalid in her eagerness to untie them and get the ball wound has forgotten to groan for half an hour. The young woman is in league with a young actress, and when her own powers of amusing fall short, she is going to bring her friend around, presumably to ask her advice upon costume for a stage drawing-room, but really to rectify. The invalid pays well for her companionship.

Young people—men and women—who do want to make a living in this way often go through a course of training for it. They buy a library of "Rules of the Game," and they carry it along on their visits.



Samuel Moses, Deaf, Dumb and Blind. (Sketched from life by a Journal staff artist.)

which he wished to use as they read the dictionary to him, is surpassed by this case. For Samuel Moses is not only partially paralyzed, but he is deaf, dumb and blind.

For months the doctors, who believed that they could restore his sight and save his life, were unable to operate, because there was no way of communicating with him. He was lying alive before them, but was, as far as communication was concerned, a thousand miles away. This article is the story of how they finally found a way of understanding and being understood.

Moses is one of the few blind deaf mutes who can converse rapidly with their fellow men—as quickly, in fact, as any man in possession of all his senses can write with pencil—and who do not have to rely upon some sort of sign alphabet for the transmission of thought. He understands every word that is written in ordinary characters upon the palm of either of his hands, and he writes his own remarks on paper or a slate, for the convenience of those who are not able to read by the sense of touch. From a physiological standpoint he is one of the greatest marvels ever seen in the metropolises.

This strange man has been deaf and dumb all his life and blind for eight years. He was born in Russia forty-five years ago and came to this country when a child. Despite the fact that he could not see, speak or hear he made his own living at two different trades until June 7, 1883, when, after having all but starved during the idleness enforced by a long siege of illness, he was admitted to the Almshouse. There he is likely to stay for the remainder of his days, unless an operation which is soon to be performed upon his eyes proves successful in restoring his sight.

Scientifically considered, his case is a striking and important example of the harmonious action of the senses. Shortly after he became blind his sense of touch began to develop, and continued to do so until it reached its present high degree of sensitiveness. It seems to have acquired, in addition to its natural acuteness, the concentrated functional activity of the centres of sight, speech and hearing. His skin is as sensitive as the nervous structures of the eyes and ears of an ordinary person—more so, indeed, than those of many.

His appearance is far from prepossessing. He has a stupid look, for his nose is long and thin, his eyes small and sunken. The ridges of his eye-sockets are prominent, his eyebrows are thick, his ears large and his mouth large. His jaw is small and his cheek bones are undersized. But for his big nose his face would be decidedly flat. His skull is long and narrow and his high forehead goes up almost to a point. He has thick, coarse, dark-brown hair and an ugly stubble of beard.

There is a great deal of character in his hands. They are long, narrow and restless. He seems to be talking to himself with his fingers nearly all the time, so much so that the casual observer would take him to be a fanatic. There is a streak of insanity in his blood, anyway, for his mother has been a maniac for the last five years. She is now an inmate of the asylum on Ward's Island.

Moses is five feet seven inches in height and weighs 135 pounds. He is narrow-chested and stoops painfully. His gait is shuffling and slow, but he walks all over the ward without any aid. His only visitor



"I See a Mental Picture of the Letters as They Are Written on My Hand." (Sketched from life by a Journal staff artist.)

Moses possesses the senses in as great a degree as the ordinary mortal. "I can taste as well as you can," he said, "and I enjoy perfumes very much. In fact, Dr. Gomez tells me my sense of smell is doubtless more acute than that of an ordinary man. I think I am quite as happy as the average man. There is plenty of happiness in this world for everybody. If each only determines to get his share."

All of the questions and answers were written quickly. It seems impossible to write too fast for Moses. Whenever the visitor wrote slowly upon his palm Moses betrayed great impatience, and once he dashed off on his slate the sentence, "Don't be so slow." When writing on his slate he always uses his right hand and follows the point of the pencil with the tip of his left forefinger. He writes every word in excellent alignment.

Moses is of a nervous temperament and inclined to be very sanguine. He is in his glory when any one will consent to converse with him in his own manner, and betrays his delight by frequent smiles and rubbing his hands together. Before losing his sight he says he was a lip reader, having learned that mode of communication in an institution for deaf mutes, of which he was an inmate in early youth. Throughout the entire interview he did not attempt to ut-

ter any kind of a sound, although the nurse said his vocal organs were in a healthy and well developed condition. He always carries his head tilted to the right, but the physicians think that habit is merely an accidental peculiarity, having no real pathological significance.

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When asked what he would most like to see, he said: "The friends who have been kind to me, and my native land."

"If speech were given you at this moment, what would be the first thing you would say?"

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A favorite pastime is letter writing. He sends two or three notes to his nurse every day. His little slate is more precious to him than anything else he possesses. Here is one of his letters to his nurse:

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"I don't suppose you realize how lonely

"You can see now the effect of cigarettes upon the mentality and digestive powers, which, though one may be considered great and the other above physical consideration, are slowly allied.

"The inhalation of cigarette smoke only carries it partially into the lungs. The process by which it is completely diffused is a matter of time. A portion of the lungs is filled with what physicians call residual air—that is, air that is not expelled from the lungs every time a breath is taken. This residual air changes, but more slowly, and the difference of the nicotine throughout the lungs is regulated by the time involved in making the entire change of air. With young smokers the effect upon the lungs is out so immediate as upon the throat and tongue, the back of the throat in particular. This also causes marked affection of the vocal chords and the senses of taste and smell.

Samuel Moses  
Blind for about 6 years  
Deaf & dumb for 44 years  
Fac-Simile of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Man's Writing.

and young men. In order to be reasonable in the discussion of any subject, we must never try to prove too much. As we take an extremely rational stand and cannot support it, all the arguments bearing upon the question fall together. Crute tobaccoists, so else, theorize against well-known facts of experience, and unbiased persons are accordingly suspicious of their statements. I have merely stated a few physical facts. I am not an opponent of the moderate use of tobacco by persons who have fully reached maturity.

They look up dispirited points and acknowledge that "it must be a misprint" when the millionaire insists upon something that isn't in the book. Elderly men with strong nerves and a fancy for being amused, as well as amusing, follow this occupation, and half the time, when you go to call on Sir Moneybags who is sick, you will find him bending over a chessboard with a vis-a-vis, interested, smiling and attentive, but after all a hired attendant.